

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 080

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Area: *Latharn (Lorn): A'Chill, Ceann an t-Sàilein, Bàrr a'Mhuilinn, Loch nan Eala, Achadh na Mòine, Am Baile Ùr, Achadh na Bà, Croitean Dubha, An Leadag, Achadh na Craoibhe, Ceann na Crèige & Àird Chatain*

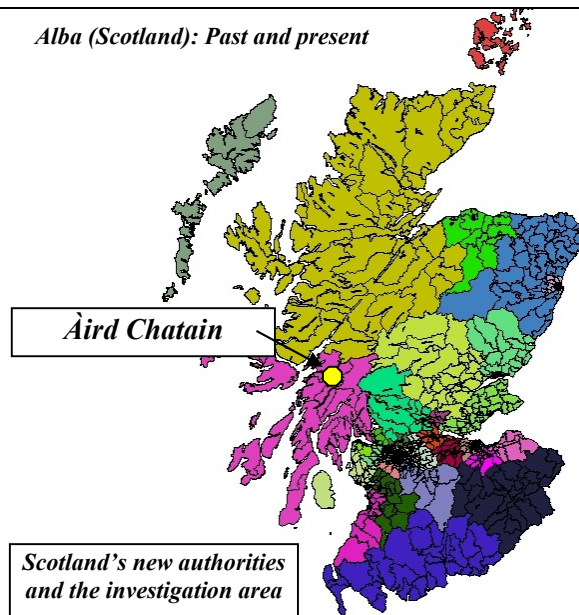
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Keil (Selma). Keil (New Selma), Lower Keil, Kintallen Mill, Barvullin, Barvullin Moss, Upper Keil, Lochnell Castle, Achnamoine, Ardroinnich, Lochnell Mains, Balure Farm, Fuarachy, Achnaba, Achnacarn, Black Crofts, Lochanbeich, North Connel, South Ledaig North Ledaig, Craigneuk, Achnacree more, Achnacreebeg, Ardachy, Achnaba, Innion, Inveresargan, Blarcreen, Kenacraig & Ardchattan)

Number of households: 100 Population present at census night: 455

Share of resident population (aged three years +) speaking Gàidhlig: 93.6 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Argyll	Ardchattan	Ardchattan	3 4	1 – 12 1 - 13

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

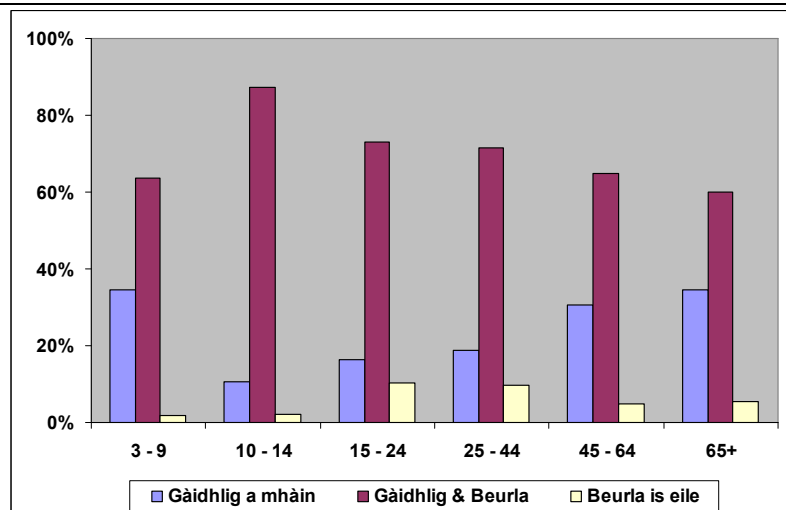
The use of the language was practically universal among the usually resident population. The few English monoglots were mostly born outside the *Gaidhealtachd* and concerned with either farming or owning the land. Even in those families it was not uncommon that the offspring had learned the language of their neighbours.

A very large proportion (by mainland standards at least) of the population (24 %) did not speak English - especially in the crofting settlements around *A'Chill* (Keil). These Gàidhlig monoglots were found in all age groups.

Area description:

This district covers a narrow coastal strip to the north of *Loch Eite* (Loch Etive) in the mainland part of the ancient county of *Earra-Ghaidheal* (Argyll).

In 1891 the settlement patterns were dominated by tiny crofting hamlets with their traditional self-subsistence economy. Major settlements were *A'Chill* (Keil) and *Achadh na Craoibhe* (Achnacree) at the time.



Age profile: Share of population speaking (1) Gàidhlig, (2) Gàidhlig & English, or (3) no Gàidhlig at all

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	Population enumerated				Usually resident population (3+)			
	Total	Aged 0-2	Deaf & dumb	Visitors etc. ³	Total ⁴	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
Age								
Total	455	20	0	14	421	101	293	93.6 %
3-4	15		0	1	14	8	6	100 %
5-9	41		0	0	41	11	29	97.6 %
10-14	47		0	0	47	5	41	97.9 %
15-24	69		0	2	67	11	49	89.6 %
25-44	115		0	3	112	21	80	90.2 %
45-64	88		0	3	85	26	55	95.2 %
65+	60		0	5	55	19	33	94.5 %
Gender								
Female	237	11	0	3	223	58	153	94.6 %
Male	218	9	0	11	198	43	140	92.4 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	284	19	0	6	259	78	174	97.3 %
In neighbouring parish¹	48	0	0	2	46	3	43	100 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	73	1	0	0	72	17	54	98.6 %
Other places	50	0	0	6	44	3	22	56.8 %

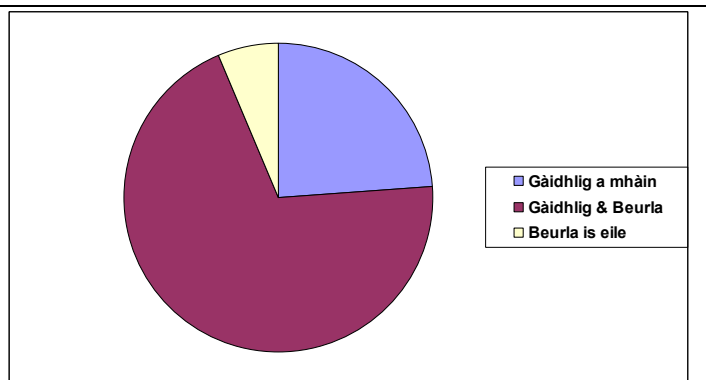
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Kilmore & Kilbride, Kilchrenan & Dalavich, Glenorchy & Inishail, Lismore & Appin (all Argyll).

² Other parishes in Scotland with more than 50 % Gàidhlig speakers in the 1891 census.

³ People described as visitors, boarders, lodgers, or other similar terms.

⁴ Number of enumerated persons who were (1) older than 2 years of age, who were (2) not deaf & dumb and who (3) did not live only temporarily in the area.



Share of population speaking (1) Gàidhlig, (2) Gàidhlig & English, or (3) no Gàidhlig at all

Background of Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profiles:

The 1891 census was the first such enumeration exercise with an unequivocal language question. After more than 100 years the original census forms are publicly available for detailed analysis. During research concerned with the “Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Studies” a vast number of such local statistics have been gathered about the Gàidhlig speaking population of Scotland in that year. As many of these results could not be included in the reports these concise factsheets are a welcome way to publish some of the “local gems”. More information is provided at http://www.linguae-celticae.de/GLP_english.htm.

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	Households	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
Àird Chatain	100	421	101	293	93.6 %
Individual communities					
<i>Sealladh Math & A'Chill Shìos</i> (Selma & Lower Keil)	18	73	40	33	100 %
<i>Bàrr a'Mhuilinn</i> (Barvullin)	8	40	19	20	97.5 %
<i>A'Chill Shuas</i> (Upper Keil)	8	25	8	16	96.0 %
<i>Loch nan Eala & Achadh na Mòine</i> (Lochnell & Achnamoine)	8	39	6	28	87.2 %
<i>Achadh na Bà & Na Croitean Dubha</i> (Achnaba & Black Crofts)	20	79	7	69	96.2 %
<i>An Leadag</i> (Ledaig)	9	39	5	26	79.5 %
<i>Achadh na Craoibhe & Ardachaigh</i> (Achnacree & Ardachy)	14	71	15	54	97.2 %
<i>Àird Chatain</i> (Ardchattan)	9	29	0	27	93.1 %
<i>Inbhir Easargan & Ceann na Creige</i> (Inveresargan & Kenacraig)	6	26	1	20	80.8 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	24	153	42	108	98.0 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	19	92	17	72	96.7 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	1	5	0	4	80.0 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	1	7	0	4	57.1 %
Households with no children (0-14)	55	164	42	105	89.6 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	55	254	61	177	93.7 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	4	19	3	15	94.7 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	3	17	0	17	100 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	11	43	4	33	86.0 %
Living on private means	3	16	0	14	87.5 %
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	5	14	0	12	85.7 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	19	58	33	25	100 %
Remaining occupations	0	0	0	0	-

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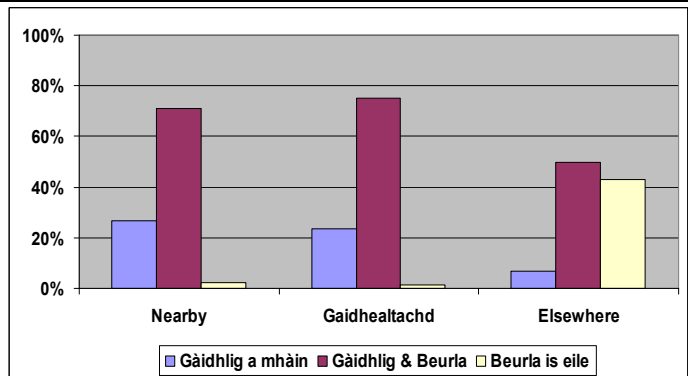
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

Almost all residents “with no Gaelic” were born outside the *Gaidhealtachd*. The share of *Gàidhlig* monolingual speakers was roughly the same in the remaining population.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Ardchattan & Muckairn or in the parishes of Kilmore & Kilbride, Kilchrenan & Dalavich, Glenorchy & Inishail, Lismore & Appin (all Argyll).

² Born in other parishes of Scotland with more than 50 % *Gàidhlig* speakers in the 1891 census.



Speakers according to place of birth (1) nearby¹
(2) in remaining *Gaidhealtachd*², or (3) elsewhere

Remarks:

1. Twenty-seven persons in the district were enumerated as not speaking *Gàidhlig*. Most prominent were the proprietors of Lochnell Castle and Inveresargan House besides a handful of “imported” Lowland farmers.
2. In original census report terms, the district had a population of 455 persons of all ages. 303 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English” and 107 persons spoke “Gaelic only”. This led to an “official” share of *Gàidhlig* speakers of 90.1 %. This figure was an underestimate of 2.5 % compared with the more realistic assumption considering only the usually resident population.